

THE ESSENTIALS OF ROENTGEN INTERPRETATION—Second Edition—Lester W. Paul, M.D., Professor of Radiology, The University of Wisconsin Medical School; and John H. Juhl, M.D., Professor of Radiology and Chairman of the Department of Radiology, The University of Wisconsin Medical School. Hoeber Medical Division (Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc.), New York, 1965. 902 pages, \$25.00.

The second edition of this comprehensive work appears approximately six years after the first. It remains divided into six main sections, dealing respectively with the osseous system, the central nervous system, the gastrointestinal system, the genitourinary system, the chest and finally, the face, mouth and jaws.

The text is slightly expanded over that of the first edition, and more than 100 new illustrations of excellent quality have been added. Amongst the new additions to this volume are considerations of genetic syndromes, renal vascular problems and rarer bone disorders. Every chapter has been rewritten. The index is adequate. The text can be recommended to the student and the practitioner.

L. HENRY GARLAND, M.D.

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VIRAL AND RICKETTSIAL INFECTIONS OF MAN—Fourth Edition—Edited by Frank L. Horsfall, Jr., M.D., Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research; and Igor Tamm, M.D., The Rockefeller Institute. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, Pa., 1965. 1282 pages, \$15.50.

This companion volume to the recent new (fourth) edition of "Bacterial and Mycotic Infections of Man," is intended to "make readily available comprehensive information about viruses, rickettsiae, and the infections they induce." Six years have elapsed since the last (third) edition of "Viral and Rickettsial Infections of Man," and the amount of new information accumulated in that interval is staggering. To do partial justice to new developments, a whole series of new chapters has been added to deal with the architecture and chemistry of virus particles, the biochemistry of viral replication and its inhibition, and new insights into virus-cell interactions. Most of these new features, prepared by distinguished investigators in a discriminating fashion, make excellent reading.

The bulk of the volume's 1,200 pages covers individual groups of viruses, their characteristics, the diseases and the epidemiologic patterns they produce. That section provides a useful source of reference for physicians, teachers and investigators, but for the harried medical student there is probably too much detail (e.g., what student *really* wants to read 100 pages on arboviruses!).

Clearly, the editors are caught in a serious dilemma. On the one hand, they wish to present the exciting, vital new aspects of viruses which are at the center of cell biology, molecular genetics, oncogenesis, etc. On the other hand, they feel obliged to adhere to the title and stress infections of MAN, focusing on clinical and epidemiologic features. There is the further problem of the traditional inclusion with viruses of agents of the psittacosis-trachoma group and rickettsiae. Actually, these disease-producing agents are closely related to intracellular bacteria rather than to viruses and, consequently, the last 200 pages of the book have little connection with the fundamental information on viruses presented in the first 300 pages!

In spite of these drawbacks, and the 20-month delay between the preparation of manuscripts and their appearance in print, this volume is an excellent source of reference and should be found on many library shelves.

ERNEST JAWETZ, M.D.

ADVANCES IN BLOOD GROUPING II—Alexander S. Wiener, M.D., F.A.C.P., Senior Bacteriologist (Serology) to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner of New York City, Adjunct Associate Professor of the Department of Forensic Medicine of the New York University Medical School, and Attending Immunohematologist to the Jewish and Adelphi Hospitals of Brooklyn, N.Y. With a section by Maurice Shapiro, M.B., B.Ch., F.C.Path., Director, The South African Blood Transfusion Service; Honorary Lecturer in Immunohaematology, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. Grune & Stratton, Inc., New York, 1965. 454 pages, \$12.50.

This is the third volume of collected reprints of journal articles by this author, each containing a different selection. The introductions and discussions of many of the papers repeat the same statements again and again, and it is regrettable that the author chooses to present material in this fashion. The voluminous literature on blood grouping makes it difficult for anyone to read all of it, so that material which is unnecessarily repetitious is particularly annoying.

The author makes it quite clear that he has two purposes in preparing this volume. Foremost is his desire to convince the reader that his own genetic interpretations and nomenclature should be utilized exclusively and that the Fisher-Race nomenclature for the Rh system be completely abandoned. It becomes increasingly evident that Wiener's interpretation of the genetics of the Rh system may be the correct one, but his prolific arguments on the subject of nomenclature have been excessive to the point of doing himself a disservice. The second motive for the publication of this volume is to remind the readers of areas in which the author deserves recognition for the priority of various discoveries. This leads to the regrettable inclusion of a 1949 article on the pathogenesis of erythroblastosis fetalis in which he called attention to the importance of intravascular sludging of red cells. Unfortunately the article largely concerns itself with a comparison between erythroblastosis fetalis and the Schwartzman phenomenon, and the discussion of the latter is completely at variance with current theory.

On the other hand, Wiener's genius and the importance of his contributions cannot be denied. Many workers in the field of blood grouping will be pleased to have a number of his important papers readily accessible on their library shelves in a book form.

HERBERT A. PERKINS, M.D.

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ESSENTIALS OF GYNECOLOGY—Third Edition—E. Stewart Taylor, M.D., Professor and Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Denver, Colorado. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1965. 603 pages, \$15.00.

Present day medical pedagogy has need of a small, current textbook of gynecology for those students who plan to specialize in nongynecological fields, which unfortunately includes about 99 per cent of most senior classes. Taylor's new edition of *Essentials of Gynecology* is well organized, current and relatively small. Like its predecessors it will continue to be popular with medical students. The chapters on stress incontinence, adrenal gland in gynecology, primary gonadal failure, and physiology and endocrinology of the female generative tract are fresh, succinct and authoritative. Throughout the entire book, the historical aspects of gynecology are emphasized and the bibliographies, though brief, are well chosen.

In many sections, in an obvious effort to mention all topics, the discussions tend to be superficial and frequently there is minimal distinction between the common and the rare. Exfoliative cytology is almost totally ignored and while not every text can include a compre-